the
Central Voice

REAL GAY NEWS. WE GIVE IT TO YOU STRAIGHT.

'scuse me...

YOUR CENTRAL PA PRIDE IS SHOWING...

Harrisburg, York, Lancaster & Carlisle celebrate

THE MANY FACES OF PRIDE PGS. 11-13

THECENTRALVOICE.COM | SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2019 | FREE

YOU NEED TO KNOW WHAT'S AT STAKE

US Supreme Court hears three crucial LGBT employment discrimination cases

By Sharon R. López

Federal law does not explicitly protect gay and lesbian employees from discrimination. However, the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) has decided to hear three cases that involve LGBT rights and non-discrimination in employment.

Two of the three cases SCOTUS agreed to hear address civil rights protections for lesbian, gay and bi-sexual employees and one addresses transgender employees. These are the first big cases being heard by the Court since Justice Kennedy left the court. Kennedy was a champion of LGBT protections and his absence on the court leaves many wondering if the outcome of these cases will be protective of LGBT rights in the workplace.

All three cases are being heard together and oral arguments are set for October 8, 2019. SCOTUS discussed these cases at least fourteen times at their weekly conferences before finally deciding to hear them and decide what protections LGBT have in the workplace.

Sexual orientation cases

The question presented on the two sexual orientation cases is the same. The question is: Whether the prohibition in Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. § 2000e-2(a)(1), against employment discrimination "because of . . . sex" encompasses discrimination based on an individual's sexual orientation? The Court will be looking for argument on the intent and the plain language of the statute. Does sex discrimination include sexual orientation?

The cases being heard came from two different circuit courts, Bostock is from the 11th Circuit and Zarda from the 2nd Circuit, and have they reach contradictory outcomes and legal analysis.

Bostock

The Bostock case involved a gay man, Bostock who claimed he was fired by the Clayton County Juvenile

Please see **SUPREME COURT,** page **20**

It's like a rainbow bee hive

LANCASTER LGBTQ+ COALITION IS BUZZING ALL OVER WITH ACTIVITY

By Frank Pizzoli

"The Lancaster LGBTQ+ Coalition advocates for the health, rights, and visibility of LGBTQ+ people across Lancaster County," Karen Foley tells *The Central Voice*. She's one of many 'founders' who are working organically to coordinate people, resources, and activity. They're definitely not resume queers.

A registered 501c(3) organization, the coalition officially launched July 15 when that region's Pride Week began, culminating in a July 20 Pride celebration in Clipper Stadium.

A collectively prepared Coalition statement prepared by Cameron Childers says:

We believe in highlighting and advancing issues of intersectionality and equity.

We believe in advocating specifically for the more vulnerable subsets of our population.

"We established ourselves to provide services and advocate for the rights of the LGBTQ+ people, both individuals and the community," Foley says, adding that the organization will also support the hard work of existing organizations to achieve statewide non-discrimination legislation as the legislature returns from its summer recess. House Bill 1404 by Rep. Dan Frankel and Senate Bill 614 by Sen. Farnese now await action. With similar language, they provide basic civil rights for queer individuals. Pennsylvania has had similar legislation introduced in 2011, 2013, 2016, and 2018. And that's where all activity stopped.

What's the end game?

"A place where all LGBTQ+ people live courageous, full, and authentic lives—an affirming Lancaster City and county where we live and thrive," Foley says.

Please see **LANCASTER COALITION,** page **21**

LANCASTER LGBTQ+ COALITION

Lancaster LGBTQ+ Coalition founding members, from left: Xavier Garcia-Molina, Lee Cohen, Karen Foley; and Lancaster Mayor Danene Sorace celebrating 2019 Lancaster Pride at Clipper Stadium.

UPMC | PINNACLE HARRISBURG

THE BIRTH OF SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL.

Your birth experience should be uniquely yours — just like family. The new Women and Babies Center at UPMC Pinnacle delivers what you and your baby need. Large, private rooms with ample space for loved ones help you celebrate the newest love of your life in comfort. And for babies who need specialized care, a new private-bed NICU with rooming-in for parents was created to support bonding and peace of mind.

Healthy families begin at the new Women and Babies Center.

To learn more about all the ways we've grown and changed for you, visit **UPMCPinnacle.com/Family**.

INTERNATIONAL

ISTANBUL

LGBT community 'socially unacceptable'

Police used tear gas to disperse hundreds of people at a banned gay pride march in Istanbul reports *Deutsche Welle*. Activists had gathered to promote rights for gay and transgender people. They had hoped the ban would be lifted.Police pushed back crowds celebrating Istanbul's 17th gay pride march, an event Turkish authorities had banned for the fifth year in a row. The rally, on a side street off Istanbul's main pedestrian avenue, drew several hundred people who cheered and waved rainbow flags. Chants of "shoulder to shoulder against fascism" and "we will not be quiet" were heard among the crowd. Amnesty International had urged Turkey to lift the "arbitrary ban" on the pride march. It said authorities rejected all suggested locations in the city by deeming the LGBT community "societally objectionable." | FACEBOOK PHOTO

SERBIA

Told only men & woman can marry

A lesbian couple launched a landmark bid to win legal recognition for same-sex partners in Serbia, saying they wanted to step out and stand up for LGBT+ rights in the Balkans reports Rachel Savage, Thomson Reuters Foundation. It is the first such legal challenge to be filed in Serbia, which has come under fire in the West over minority rights and widespread homophobia. Jelena Dubovi and Suncica Kopunovic, from the northern city of Novi Sad, tried to get a civil partnership at the municipal registrar's office in April, but were told that only men and women can marry and turned away, their lawyer said. "As not many same-sex couples in Serbia are willing to step out, we decided to stand for all of us and try to fight and aim to win," said Dubovi, 27, who began dating 29-year-old Kopunovic four years ago then proposed to her in 2016. "We are not afraid... we got sick of hiding who we are, because that is actually nothing bad," Dubovi told the Thomson Reuters Foundation by phone. "We just love each other, which is absolutely a normal thing." Serbia's government did not respond to requests for comment. | PHOTO BY BALKANIST

RUSSIA

Russia arrests man over murder of activist

Elena Grigoryeva, 41, was stabbed eight times in the face and back by an assailant whom she knew following an argument between them, the Russian Investigative Committee, which handles major crimes, said. Grigoryeva was a human rights and LGBTQ rights activist. She also opposed the annexation of Crimea by the Russian Federation. Russian police said they had detained a man over the fatal stabbing of an LGBT activist near her home in St Petersburg and were not treating the murder as a hate crime. Police have a arrested an unnamed suspect, identifying him only as a man born in Soviet Kyrgyzstan in Central Asia in 1981. It said he had been drunk during the attack. | WIKIPEDIA PHOTO

JAPAN

Japanese lawyers ask for swift action

In this 2015 Facebook photo, Koyuki Higashi (left) and Hiroko Masuhara celebrate and hold up their same-sex marriage certificate in Tokyo. Last month 13 gay couples filed a lawsuit arguing the country's general rejection of same-sex marriage rights violates the constitution. Lawyers in Japan have asked the government to swiftly legalize same-sex marriage, arguing that the current legal procedures go against the Constitution.
The lawyers say the current legislation, which does not recognize same-sex marriage, ignores the freedom of marriage and equality for all people stipulated in the Constitution. They say banning same-sex marriage is a serious violation of human rights.

NATIONAL

PUERTO RICO

Gov. Rossello resigns over text message

Puerto Rico Gov. Ricardo Rosselló resigned amid a scandal over sexist, homophobic and otherwise offensive text messages he and his inner circle exchanged reported Bobby Allyn and Scott Neuman for NPR. The leaked texts set off mass demonstrations and widespread calls for his departure. "I was willing to face any challenge, fully understanding that I would prevail against any accusation or process," Rosselló, a Democrat who was elected in 2016, said at the time. Earlier Rossello had promised not to seek a second term, but he acknowledged that he had "heard the demand of the people. I hope this decision serves as a call to citizen reconciliation," he said. | WIKIPEDIA PHOTO

TEXAS

Waco day care denies admission

"We are gay. Our daughter is not" A Waco couple said after a day care denied their daughter admission upon learning her parents are in a lesbian marriage. Brittney Ready and her wife, Stacey, have been married for two years and have four kids. Their youngest daughter, Callie, was on the waiting list at Parkview Christian Academy until they got a call saying the day care finally had an opening.
Brittney wrote on Facebook that the director was sweet and welcoming to the couple and their daughter. It wasn't until they were ready to leave that they ran into problems. "We go to leave with paperwork in hand only for the administrator to call us into his office to let us know that he heard that Stacey and I are 'mates' and because of that they cannot welcome Callie" Brittney said. Ready said the director told the couple the day care could not welcome Callie because their Christian-based faith would not be able to accept their daughter. | PHOTO BY DIVERSITY, INC.

STATE

ERIE

Erie passes conversion therapy ban

Erie City Council passed an ordinance June 5 prohibiting mental health practitioners from conducting conversion therapy on a minor to change their sexual orientation or gender identity reports Michael Mahler, Editor, Erie Gay News. This was the final step for passing the ordinance. Speaking in favor of the ban was Rev. Dr. Rich McCarty of Greater Erie Alliance for Equality and Community United Church. Rev. Dr. McCarty pointed out that this type of therapy can have a very harmful effect on youth, sometimes leading to anxiety, depression, and suicide, and that numerous national mental health and human services strongly oppose this type of so-called therapy. Opposing passage of the ban was Dr. John Diamond, who claimed that passage of the ban would be unconstitutional. He stated that he would file a lawsuit for violation of his civil rights. In an Erie News Now report he was described as a "conversion therapist counselor."

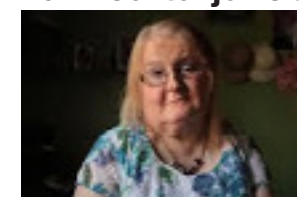
PHILADELPHIA

Amazon bans; House balks; TWO assails

Truth Wins Out assailed the House Republican Study Committee after *Vice News* revealed that the group, representing 70% of GOP House members, hatched a plan to pressure Amazon into reinstating books from a discredited conversion therapist, the late Dr. Joseph Nicolosi, whose work demeans and dehumanizes LGBT people. Nicolosi was the founder of the notorious National Association for Research and Therapy of Homosexuality (NARTH), which displayed great disdain for LGBT people, once referring to them as a "purple menace." The plan to harass Amazon is ironic, considering it follows a landmark video apology last month by several high-profile former "ex-gay" conversion leaders who now call for a federal ban on the destructive practice. "It is reprehensible that the GOP is now pressuring Amazon to reinstate discredited books that abuse and dehumanize LGBT people," said Truth Wins Out's Executive Director Wayne Besen. "Conversion therapy is a waste of time and money, which divides families and destroys lives. Amazon was correct to stop peddling a fraudulent product that causes real harm and heartache. There are simply no happy endings with conversion therapy."

ALLENTOWN

LGBT Center joins discrimination suit



(L) *Photo of Aimee Stephens*
Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center has joined Transgender Legal Defense & Education Fund (TLDEF) and 32 other LGBT organizations in filing a "friend of the court" brief in support of Aimee Stephens in her case before the U.S. Supreme Court. The case R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Homes v. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission could reverse longstanding precedent that transgender people are protected from employment discrimination under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The amicus brief asks the Supreme Court to affirm a Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals decision that ruled Ms. Stephen's employer violated Title VII, which prohibits sex discrimination in employment, when they fired her for being transgender.

Where do these guys come from?

Publisher's Voice

By Frank Pizzoli

As the US Supreme Court is poised to determine how queer issues will be treated under the law for what could be the remainder of my life, we have professional, Evangelical Christians and an Orthodox bishop coming out of the woodwork. One story tops the other. Where do these guys come from? Have they no gaydar? Do they even know what gaydar is?

Filing this in the *Can't Make It Up* drawer –

Yoga. Pastor Mark Driscoll thinks yoga is bad.

Why?

He explains on his web site that because yoga is so intertwined with Hinduism, you can't practice yoga without making the Baby Jesus cry. In a *Seattle Times* article last year, he said: "Should Christians stay away from yoga because of its demonic roots? Totally. Yoga is demonic. If you just sign up for a little yoga class, you're signing up for a little demon class."

Pathoes, The Friendly Atheist web site commented: Driscoll is like the Boy Who Cried Satan. Every time he says it, he loses more credibility, even with people who generally believe in the kind of bullshit he spews on a regular basis.

Caught up in his own bizarre narrative (like any delusional narcissist), Driscoll expanded his explanation by clarifying: A faithful Christian can no more say they are practicing yoga for Jesus than they can say they are committing adultery for Jesus.

…then Driscoll says (get this) – "yoga is often not overt in its teachings but rather weaves them through seemingly harmless practices such as stretching…" I knew it was the stretching!

…there's more – Driscoll at one point said: "I thought I'd take this opportunity to provide a much fuller and comprehensive teaching on what yoga is and why it is in fact demonic. By demonic I mean it's a spiritual act to a being other than the God of the Bible. And, for those unfamiliar with me, I'm no raging Christian fundamentalist."

Perhaps not. But you are strange. I'd keep children away from you.

Orthodox Bishop no second

Bishop Neophytos of Morphou is no slouch when it comes to being clueless about gaydar.

Bishop Neophytos is known for ridiculous claims about LGBT people. Recently, he claimed if a pregnant woman has anal sex, the baby will be gay. Who knew? But his latest is award-whinning. *LGBTI Cyprus* has the anti-queer cleric on video claiming that holy men are able to tell if a man is gay by smelling him.

Of course, there's always a parable. It's about "a very handsome young man" and a "holy monk."

"As he walked by… the monk said to him: 'Young man I need to tell you. Stop what you're doing'," Neophytos said. "'What am I?' replied the young man."

"'This sleeping around. You'll catch something, a disease, and die young. You should repent. There is joy in repenting'," Neophytos narrated.

"'How do you know what I've been doing?' replied the young man."

"'God showed me,' said the monk. 'As you walked by me, you had a nasty smell. These acts you're doing, laying with men have a specific stink which I recognize," Neoyphytus said in a monk's voice. (Whatever that is.) "'This is how holy men receive information from God'."

If I spoke to anyone in public the same way, I'd be committed. But let's face it folks, we allow those who believe in Sky Gods lot of breaks along the way, plus tax-free status in America. Even they blatantly violate that religious privilege and get smack in the middle of political campaigns.

Neoyphytus then told his (bleeping?) flock that the young man was "helped by his family's prayers and stopped his acts. This young man now smells wonderful." And he would know.

Sucking for Satan?

My fav - A New Jersey minister, says numerous media outlets, has been accused by his (Mother?) superiors of using oral sex to extract "evil spirits" from three men he was counseling.

Rev. Dr. William Weaver's church overseers noted "multiple acts of idolatry and sexual misconduct," dating back to 1999. One day before his church 'hearing' (like letting the Vatican handle it) he resigned. Like any weasel would.

The three men involved, *My Central Jersey* reported, had reported Weaver to authorities in addition to his church leaders. The Union (NJ) County Prosecutor's Office refused to confirm to MCJ whether they were investigating.

My Central Jersey reported: "A.J. Meeker, 37, said in a statement that he started seeing Weaver for counseling in 2000. At the time he was struggling with "abandonment issues, depression and anxiety," and after joining Weaver's church found him to be "a kind and compassionate person who was very easy to talk to."

During the counseling, *which was held in Weaver's bedroom* (where else?), Weaver allegedly claimed Meeker was filled with evil energy, citing Native American rituals and blaming "individuals based around the Watchung Reservation." (As in 'everybody Watchung tonight?')

In order to remove the claimed evil, Weaver had Meeker lie naked on his bed, before placing coins and gemstones on his body, and ordering him to lie still.

Weaver then put his tongue in Meeker's mouth and moved it around "to see if I had anything in my mouth or throat." This then progressed to Weaver performing oral sex on Meeker.

"He would then ingest my ejaculate and then would spit up multiple pieces of plastic or metal into a Ziploc bag," Meeker said. Weaver claimed these pieces were "hits," created from his evil energy, and they needed to be removed.

Weaver would then hold Meeker and tell him "he loved me and he would protect me, and he would never let anything bad happen to me." He also told Meeker not to tell people what they had done (the telltale sign,), as "nobody would understand."

William Weist, 52, made similar accusations against Weaver. He said he sought Weaver's help in his 30s, after witnessing the death of his wife's son, saying he was at "an extremely low point."

After initially discussing "Bible and Bible verses, and Jesus loves you, and all this stuff," the counseling sessions "just evolved," with Weaver allegedly introducing gemstones and discussions of "evil spirits."

Despite these oddities, Weist felt he was improving after the trauma of seeing a dead body, saying, "I was able to now have those memories and not get upset by them, so I thought it was all helping."

But things allegedly progressed to a similar place as Meeker, with Weist naked, ordered to remain still, and with Weaver telling him he would remove his "hits" through masturbation.

"I felt uneasy, but I took his word that this was necessary," Weist said, adding, ""Feeling mortified was an understatement, but I didn't want to say he was wrong, after he helped me to this point. I was so confused and upset I remember praying to God please let me get this over with!"

At his next session, Weist was told only oral sex would remove his "hits."

"When it was over," Weist said, "he showed me what looked to be a tiny metal ball and said that was what he got out of me."

Weist says his low mental state was what allowed Weaver to take advantage of him: "I was so scared with everything that I was dealing with. I just felt scared, it was very raw."

Weist says he suffered through several more sessions before he stopped attending counseling, saying it had left him feeling "so small and worthless, like a piece of trash in the street. I just couldn't face what had happened to me."

Jared Staunton, 36, said Weaver took advantage of him after his partner and father died just two months apart.

"I began to have a nervous breakdown right in front of him," Staunton said. "It was at that moment, when I was completely broken and lost, that he took control over me."

"Mentally I was gone," he added, stating that he followed Weaver's instructions because "all I could be was compliant."

And there you have it.

Except that by the time readers get to the end of this column, the humor fades. It makes me wonder what tortured lives these individuals live. Each one of them – the clerics, the three men who brought complaints, and all those who really believe a representative of the Sky God Religion can make The Gay go away. At the end of the day, difficult as it is, I choose to be, as best I can, compassionate about these guys. That's what, I think, a Manly-Man does. That doesn't mean I allow them to go unnoticed or to inject their ridiculous religious beliefs into the process of establishing basic queer civil rights – and a separation of church and state. That's my credo. What's yours?

the Central Voice

CENTRAL PA'S LGBT NEWS SOURCE

PUBLISHER & EDITOR
Frank Pizzoli
frankpizzoli@gmail.com

ART DIRECTOR
Louise Sukle

GRAPHIC DESIGNER
Julianna Sukle

CARTOONIST
Brad Gebhart

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Yvonne Carmichael
Louie Marven
Trum Simmons
Terry Drew Karanen
Amanda Arbour
Nicolas Duncan
Tesla Taliaferro
Atticus Ranck
Sharon R. Lopez

SALES MANAGER
Dave Brown 717-944-4628
DaveBrown@pressandjournal.com

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE
Chris Thomas 717-919-1394
ChrisThomas@pressandjournal.com

NATIONAL ADVERTISING:
Rivendell Media
212-242-6863

OWNED BY
PRESS & JOURNAL INC.
20 South Union Street
Middletown, PA 17057
Subscriptions/Distribution 717-944-4628

PROUD MEMBER OF:

Central Pennsylvania Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce

Pennsylvania NewsMedia Association

Be sure to visit the Central Voice .com

Will legislators weasel out - again?

Editor's note - With an estimated attendance of 7,000, Central PA Pride Festival held its second event in Soldiers and Sailors Mall on the grounds of the PA State Capitol July 27.

Recent history: Weather conditions in 2018 forced Pride organizers to relocate the event from the banks of the Susquehanna River. Gov. Tom Wolf extended an invitation to organizers to hold the event on the grounds of the state capitol.

The irony is that Pennsylvania does not have basic civil rights conditions for LGBT taxpayers, having had such legislation introduced numerous times since the early 2000s. Currently, House Bill 1404 and Senate Bill 614 await action in the General Assembly.

If history repeats itself, the legislature will weasel out – as was the case with same-sex marriage - and wait until a US Supreme Court decision or Congressional action makes LGBT basic civil rights law of the land. At the time the Supremes allowed same-sex marriage, Pennsylvania was the last remaining state in the Northeast still outlawing gay marriage. Today, it's the same with civil rights. *(See Cartoon)*

Voice Box

Notes from our readers

E-mail your comments to frankpizzoli@gmail.com

WHO DOESN'T?

"Yeah, I know The Central Voice. Who doesn't?"

- Michelle Johnsen Photography

REACHING

Thank you for reaching out and for all you do for the community!

- Alexander Reber, Treasurer, PA Democratic State Committee; Dauphin County Democratic Committee Vice Chair

YOU'RE WELCOME

Fantastic article, thank you for putting it together.

- Noah Levinson, Executive Director, Healthcare4AllPA

BETTER

The Central Voice looks better and better. It's on my desk.

- David J. Morrison, Executive Director, Historic Harrisburg Assoc.

PA SAFE CAUCUS WANTS PUBLIC HEARINGS

We must say "NO" to gun violence

Submitted by PA State Rep. Wendy Ullman, D-Bucks

Like many Americans, I was horrified by the senseless loss of life in El Paso and Dayton this weekend. I mourn for the loss of innocent lives and the devastated families and friends they leave behind. These terrible events mark the 31st and 32nd mass killings in the U.S. since Jan. 1 of this year. It's early August. How many more people will die in mass killings by legally-purchased weapons by the end of the year?

Mass killings have become far too commonplace; it terrifies me that we may become desensitized to the horror and come to accept mass murder as part of American culture. This is NOT who we are as Americans. These violent acts are a perversion of the American psyche.

"...these events of mass murder are symptoms of the hatred, bigotry, and deranged world view that threaten to become part of our new normal."

We must fight against the normalization of mass murder by renewed commitment to working together to enact meaningful change.

A first step would be to enact commonsense gun legislation that would help reduce the threat of gun violence while respecting the rights of responsible gun owners. This session, I plan to introduce a bill requiring individuals to participate in a gun safety training course before purchasing their first firearm or receiving a conceal carry permit. There are dozens more bills awaiting consideration.

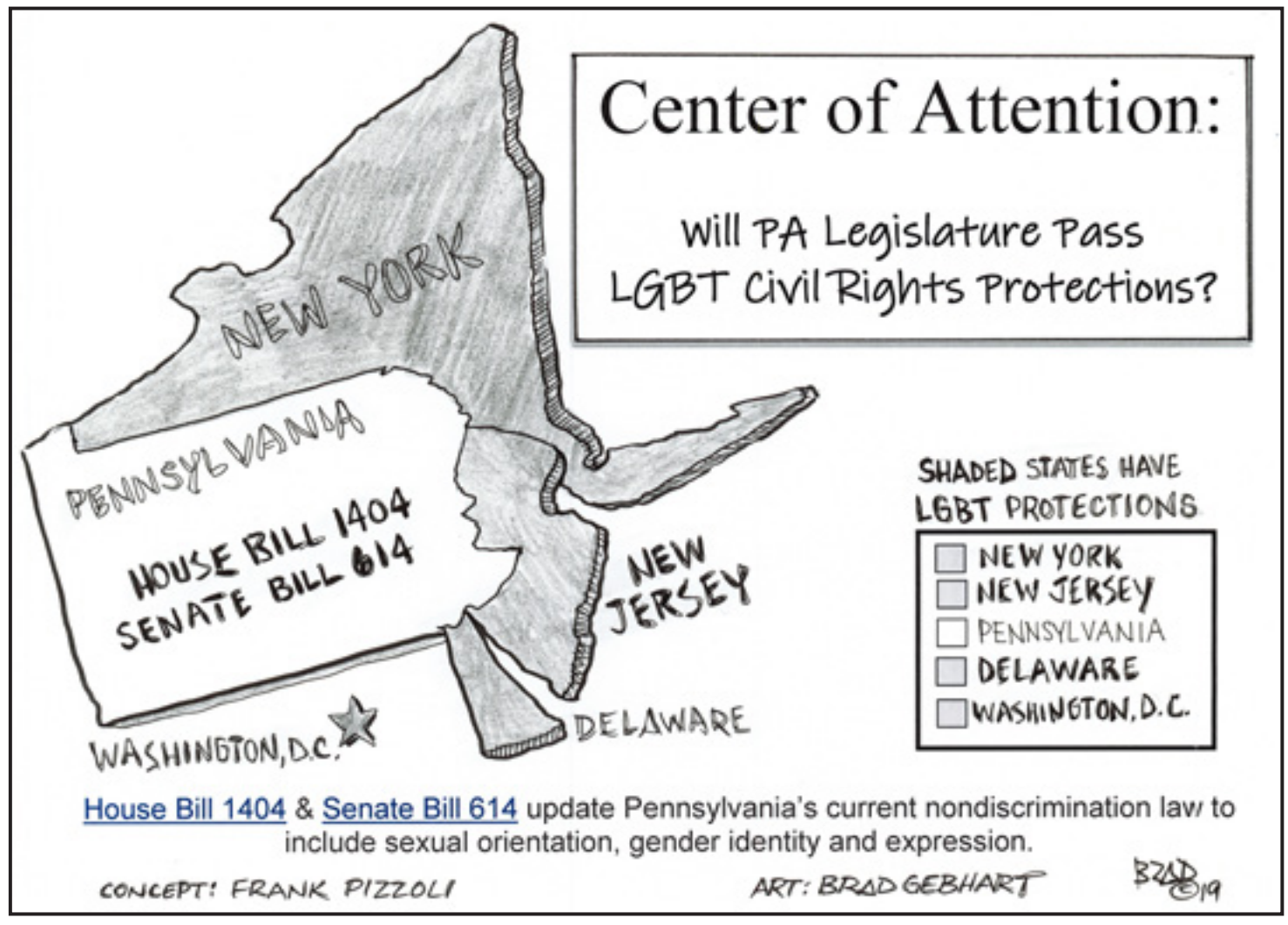
Unfortunately, these bills have been held back in committee by legislative leaders. Unless bills pass through committee process, there is no opportunity for honest debate and no chance of passage. The democratic process is thwarted and the voice of the people whom legislators were elected to represent is silenced. To galvanize legislative action, the chairs of the legislature's PA SAFE CAUCUS have called for a special joint session this fall to address the epidemic of gun violence and extremism in our country with the goal of enacting gun safety laws to keep Pennsylvanians safe.

But an equally pressing issue is recognizing that these events of mass murder are symptoms of the hatred, bigotry, and deranged world view that threaten to become part of our new normal. It's up to us to ensure they do not take hold.

We can start by remembering the American values of tolerance and diversity that have been subverted by a factionalism that demonizes differences and obstructs meaningful debate.

We are at a crisis point in our history. We can choose the better angels of our natures, dedicate ourselves to the values for which our country stands, and declare a new day in America.

We must. Innocent lives depend on it.



LGBT-FRIENDLY PLAN

Is 'Medicare for all' a solution?

By Frank Pizzoli

Healthcare is a contentious issue as the 2020 presidential election approaches.

"We can do better," says Noah Levinson. He's referring to the state and nation's healthcare system.

Levinson is the newly-appointed executive director of Healthcare4AllPA. He's based in Scranton and works remotely across the state's 67 counties, including Lancaster, York, Cumberland, and Dauphin counties.

The organization was founded 10 years ago and functions as a 501c(3) for educational purposes and as a 501c(4) for lobbying purposes. "We may develop a political action committee in the future," Levinson tells *The Central Voice*.

Unhappy voters?

Why healthcare in general? Why Medicare for everyone in particular?

"In general, many people we talk to are unhappy with their legislators," Levinson says. "Their unhappiness is reflected in the low voter turnout in the state's last primary election," he claims. Turnout statewide was 13.8% of registered voters. For clarification purposes, voter turnout in Pennsylvania's primary elections is not high to begin with and ranges from about 17 to 21% in recent election cycles, according to the United States Elections Project.

"Medicine and medical records were my second language growing up."

-Noah Levinson

"We also find that people around the state are passionate about healthcare," Levinson says.

Voter dissatisfaction reflected in lower than usual voter turnout is Levinson's opening. Healthcare in the form of Medicare For All is his calling card.

"We want to harness the passion out there around healthcare," Levinson says. "There are all kinds of bubbles out there, like the healthcare bubble, and our job is to connect people in the smaller areas within Pennsylvania."

Eventually, the organization's activities will lead to connecting people.

"Social media marketing is important but that's only one way to provide information. At some point it is necessary for any organization with a social justice mission to assemble people together face-to-face," Levinson says.

Local programs

In south central Pennsylvania, Levinson says, "We plan to hold events and discussions with speakers from across the state, bringing single-payer supporters out to get them more involved in educating their communities on how these programs can help their neighbors."

Acton steps are also part of Levinson's plan. "We will inform people about action steps they can take to see legislation pass."

Everybody in

Regarding the LGBT community, "We know that LGBT persons are, due to discrimination, more likely to encounter mental health issues such as substance abuse and suicidal thoughts, especially in the transgender community," Levinson says. Research by the Federal government's Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration in 2015 indicated that LGBT individuals (referred to as sexual minorities in the data) are at greater risk for substance use and mental health issues compared with the sexual majority population that identifies as being heterosexual.

"Both inpatient and outpatient mental health is completely covered," Levinson notes. "We also look at HIV prevention medications costing thousands of dollars a month, which will be covered. When we say everybody in, nobody out, we absolutely mean it."

Regarding Medicare4All, Levinson acknowledges there's more than one way to achieve health care coverage for everyone.

"There could be a public option and that would help. But our mission is to establish a single-payer healthcare system," Levinson says. Different states have tried different experiments but Levinson says, "We can do better."

Levinson's plan of action for Pennsylvania is to re-introduce The Pennsylvania HealthCare Plan, originally introduced in the 2017-2018 legislative session as House Bill 1688 and Senate Bill 1014 by Rep. Pam De Lissio and Sen. Art Haywood.

In general, Levinson's Pennsylvania plan represents what a team of econo-

Please see **MEDICARE FOR ALL,** page **20**

How would it work?

Some of the more basic points include:

It covers all residents who file a Pennsylvania Income Tax Return

It covers all of the following, but is not limited to:

- All medically necessary inpatient and outpatient care and treatment, both primary and secondary
- Emergency services
- Emergency and other medically necessary transport to covered health services
- Rehabilitation services, including speech, occupational, physical and massage therapy
- Inpatient and outpatient mental health services and substance abuse treatment
- Hospice care
- Prescription drugs and prescribed medical nutrition
- Vision care, aids and equipment
- Hearing care, hearing aids and equipment
- Diagnostic medical tests, including laboratory tests and imaging procedures
- Medical supplies and prescribed medical equipment
- Immunizations, preventive care, health maintenance care and screening
- Dental care
- Home health care services
- Chiropractic and massage therapy
- Complementary and alternative medical procedures that have been shown by the National Institute of Health's Division of Complementary and Alternative Medicine to be safe and effective for possible inclusion as covered benefits
- Long-term care for those unable to care for themselves independently, including assisted and skilled care

It doesn't exclude or limit coverage due to preexisting conditions

It eliminates co-payments, deductibles, point-of-service charges or any other fees or charges for a service

The proposed plan also says:

Healthcare should be guaranteed for all residents in Pennsylvania

Healthcare should be publicly financed and not-for-profit

Patients should have the power to choose their doctor

Doctors should have the power to choose treatment for their patients

Modern Family available with Xfinity On Demand

Life Reflected.

On X1, it's pride all year, only with Xfinity.℠ There's power in seeing yourself on screen, and that's why Xfinity created a first-of-its-kind community endorsed LGBTQ Film & TV Collection. With Xfinity On Demand, you have access to thousands of TV shows and movies at home and on-the-go. Simply say, "LGBTQ" into the X1 Voice Remote to easily immerse yourself in an awesome, diverse collection of content that reflects all of you. **Simple. Easy. Awesome.**

Find yourself at **xfinity.com/LGBTQ**

COMCAST

xfinity

Restrictions apply. Not available in all areas. No celebrity endorsement implied. © 2019 Comcast. All rights reserved. NPA223676-0010
NED LG Q3 MF V14

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

THE HERSHEY LODGE

FAB

CELEBRATING A LEGACY OF RESISTANCE & RESILIENCE

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER, VISIT
WWW.CENTRALPALGBTCENTER.ORG / FAB.
QUESTIONS? CALL US AT 717-920-9534.

Good reads for cool days

Don't stop reading just because summer is over. Here's a list that covers the gamut from true crime, memoir, fun-loving romance, coming-of-age stories in far-away places, and even a good 'ole mystery. There's sure to be something to enjoy as the days cool down. Remember, the Dauphin County Library System has even more titles to enjoy. Find out more by either visiting us in person or online at www.dcls.org.

Dauphin County Library Book Reviews

By Yvonne Carmichael

The Frangipani Tree Mystery, by Ovidia Yu

"1936 in the Crown Colony of Singapore, and the British abdication crisis and rising Japanese threat seem very far away. When the Irish nanny looking after Acting Governor Palin's daughter dies suddenly - and in mysterious circumstances - mission school-educated local girl SuLin - an aspiring journalist trying to escape an arranged marriage - is invited to take her place. But then another murder at the residence occurs and it seems very likely that a killer is stalking the corridors of Government House. It now takes all SuLin's traditional skills and intelligence to help British-born Chief Inspector Thomas LeFroy solve the murders - and escape with her own life" (From the publisher)

Gender Queer: A Memoir, by Maia Kobabe

"This heartfelt graphic memoir relates, with sometimes painful honesty, the experience of growing up non-gender-conforming. From a very young age, Kobabe is unsure whether to claim a lesbian/gay, bisexual, or even transgender identity: 'I don't want to be a girl. I don't want to be a boy either. I just want to be myself.' Kobabe comes of age having to navigate expressions of identity such as clothing and haircuts, with fraught attempts at romantic and sexual entanglements. Eventually, Kobabe's supportive sister concludes: 'I think you're a genderless person.' (Kobabe: 'She knew before I did.') Kobabe continues to explore the challenges of a nonbinary identity, including the use of alternate pronouns (in Kobabe's case, e/em/eir)." (From Publishers Weekly)

Red, White and Royal Blue, by Casey McQuiston

"McQuiston's outstanding debut pivots on an inspired rom-com premise: What if Alex Claremont-Diaz, the half-Mexican son of the first female president of the United States, fell in love with Prince Henry, England's heir? The two heartthrobs are arch-nemeses at first. After a scandalous mishap at a wedding, however, they are required to pretend to be best friends lest their enmity spark an international incident. Not surprisingly, their hate turns into a bromance. When Henry kisses Alex, the First Son goes into a mild gay panic, but their snide texts soon become gushy emails ending with romantic quotes. The scions also contrive ways of being together at Wimbledon, in Texas, and at a West Hollywood karaoke bar to steal kisses or have secretive sex. Of course, their romance will eventually be discovered and leaked to the press during the president's heated reelection campaign. The impossible relationship between Alex and Henry is portrayed with quick wit and clever plotting. The drama, which involves political rivals, possible betrayals, and even a meeting with the queen, is both irresistible and delicious. Readers will be eager to see more from McQuiston after this extremely promising start." (From Publishers Weekly)

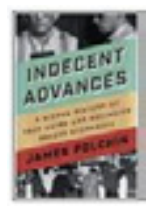
Disoriental, by Negar Djavadi

"Djavadi's momentous first novel is a both a multigenerational family saga and a history of modern Iran. Narrated by 25-year-old Kimia Sadr, the story opens in 1996 in a fertility clinic in Paris, but Kimia's Iranian ancestors' stories take over right there in the waiting room, careening back and forth in time. When Kimia is still quite young, her journalist father, Darius Sadr, is forced to flee Iran after his outspoken criticism, first of the shah, and then of Khomeini. In 1981, when Kimia is 10, she, her sisters, and her mother, Sara, cross dangerous mountains on horseback to join Darius in Paris, where their home becomes a dangerous hub of expat dissident activity. Kimia rebels, traveling Europe looking for a new self in debauchery and punk rock. Violence, meanwhile, follows the family to Europe, with tragic consequences. The novel convincingly and powerfully explores the enormous weight of one's family and culture on individual identity, especially the exile's." (From Publishers Weekly)

Last Night in Nuuk, by Niviaq Korneliussen

"Korneliussen's lean, heterogeneous prose captures the confusion, tenacity, rage and blessing of queer lives in flux. "I'm terribly homesick but don't know what sort of home I'm longing for." Amid the ambivalence of fear and desire, however, there is an unwavering compassion that blooms over the course of that spring. By the summer's end, nothing will be the same for Fia, Inuk, Arnaq, Ivik and Sara, but in Korneliussen's capable hands, the reader may find their courses gently turned toward home. This novel is an utter delight. " (From Shelf Awareness newsletter)

Indecent Advances: A Hidden History of True Crime and Prejudice Before Stonewall, by Jame Polchin



"Polchin (liberal studies, New York Univ.) presents a reflective, thoughtful first book that perfectly blends true crime and the history of discrimination against gay men in the 20th century. The author takes a deep dive into the specific crimes against gay men and how their deaths fed the competing cultural narratives of the time; that homosexuality was both a crime and a mental illness. Using these two narratives and the salacious nature of true crime, the public began to see homosexuality as a social and moral issue instead of a personal one. Polchin expertly uses men's stories between World War I and the Stonewall Riots to prove that the fight for equal treatment is not over, and that the history of the LGBTQ+ movement is not always one of activism and celebration. In fact, the LGBTQ+ community is fighting against the stereotypes built on the deaths of these men." (From L J Reviews)

Art Association of HARRISBURG

Sept. 8 - Oct. 10

Sustained
Artists and the Environment
Fall Membership Show

Opening Reception
Gallery Walk Day
Sunday, September 8th
11am - 6pm

Reception Host
Chuck Schulz and the Paper Lion Gallery & Frame Shop of Lemoyne

Exhibition Sponsor
Randy Michener
PennFuture

Prize Juror
Catherine Stone
Curator, Carlisle Arts Learning Center

Cultural Enrichment Fund

Visit www.artassocofhbg.com for more information & reservations

Arts & Entertainment

Face-to-face interactions count

Gina Chavez, a 12-time Austin Music Award winner, including 2019 Austin Female Vocalist of the Year, appears Oct. 4 at the Kulkarni Theatre, Penn State Harrisburg. Chavez often travels with her wife Jodi Granado, a high school algebra teacher and her manager. Chavez tells *The Central Voice:* "The experience of talking, meeting, the face-to-face interactions can often produce change, help with understanding one another better."

Central PA Womyn's Chorus
Giving Voice to Our Community

Womyn's Chorus marks 25 years

Celebrating its 25th anniversary, The Central Pennsylvania Womyn's Chorus brings together a diverse group of women, united by the joy of singing, to celebrate and empower women and to affirm a positive image of lesbians and feminists. Theresa Alberici has been singing with the chorus about 10 years. She tells *The Central Voice* her first memory is of "being in a safe and welcoming place where I could share my passion for singing and also be totally out." Also with the chorus about a decade, Laury McIntyre says by the end of the first season "I'd made a bunch of new friends and my self-esteem grew. She had a solo her second season. *INFO - www.cpwchorus.org*

OPEN
OPEN
OPEN
STAGE
OF HARRISBURG

The Capital Area's premier professional theatre company
Season 34: **METAMORPHOSIS**
openstagehbg.com | 25 North Court St., Harrisburg

Nov 16- Dec 28, 2019 ***Who's Holiday!***
Nov 23 - Dec 29, 2019 ***A Christmas Carol***
Jan 9-12, 2020 ***Heathers: School Edition***
Feb 1 - March 8, 2020 ***Amélie the Musical***
May 9 - June 28, 2020 ***Angels in America***
Part I: *Millennium Approaches*
Part II: *Perestroika*

USE THE CODE "CENTRALVOICE"
AT CHECKOUT FOR $5 OFF ANY TICKET

2019 The MANY FACES of PRIDE

Pride events are a time for celebration and for recognizing accomplishments made by the LGBTQ community with the support of friends, family and advocates. On the 50th anniversary of the 1969 Stonewall riots, this summer's events in Central PA worked to raise awareness of LGBTQ issues, to promote equality and to end discrimination. >>

Photo Credits: the Central Voice Staff, Magnolia Bloom Photography & Michelle Johnsen Photography

Photo Credit: the Central Voice Staff

HARRISBURG

CENTRAL PA PRIDE FEST 7/27

THECENTRALVOICE.COM

FOR LOTS MORE PHOTOS

Photo Credit: Magnolia Bloom Photography

CARLISLE

CARLISLE PRIDE WEEK 6/22-30

Photo Credit: the Central Voice Staff

YORK

YORK EQUALITY FEST 7/14

Photo Credit: Michelle Johnsen Photography

LANCASTER

LANCASTER PRIDE 7/20

the Central Voice.com
From the wacky world of homophobes
HOMOPHOBE OF THE YEAR
There is no single-issue fight
PA is up the 'Amazon' for new headquarters

We give it to you straight.

the Central Voice.com

CENTRAL PA'S LGBT NEWS SOURCE

theCentralVoice.com **is more than a general interest news website. We bring you LGBT politics, public policy, world affairs, analysis, art, theatre, wellness and everything else that matters.**

Free content. No paywalls. No email sign-ins. No fake news.

UPDATE

Denial of Care Rule delayed

June 29, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) stipulated that it will delay the implementation of its Denial of Care Rule.

The Denial of Care Rule gives license to health care workers – doctors, surgeons, nurses, receptionists, orderlies – to deny care to patients, no matter how dire the patients' medical needs, based on personal religious or moral objections. The rule sets no limits on what constitutes a religious or moral refusal, nor does it establish appropriate safeguards to ensure that patients who are denied care get the treatment they need.

A court order put the delay of the rule into effect yesterday. The rule will no longer take effect on July 22 as originally planned; instead, the rule will be delayed at least until November 22.

QUEER YOGA

POSITIVE ENERGY, EMPOWERING AND BODY POSITIVE MOVEMENT

BRING YOUR OWN MAT OR USE ONE OF OURS

DROP-IN FITNESS HOURS

Check out our website for more details

www.alderhealth.org

This is a donation based class.

Suggested donation: $5

Contact Noah for questions and mat requests
(717) 233.7190 Ext 266

100 N. Cameron St, Ste-201, Harrisburg, PA 17101

TOGETHER
is never far away.

Highmark Blue Shield and Penn State Health are ensuring you have access to primary care close to home, with nearly 400 Penn State Health PCPs in the region.

Visit **TogetherForPA.com** to learn more.

HIGHMARK

PennState Health

Highmark Blue Shield is an independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.

Pessimistic outlook from LGBT millennials

Only half of millennial LGBT workers rate their current financial situation positively, with 60% of millennial respondents admitting to having less than three months of emergency savings and 71% of those with a bachelor's degree struggling with student loan debt according to released a workplace and financial equality survey of more than 1,200 full and part-time LGBT workers in the U.S. The survey was conducted by TD Bank and TD Securities

The recent passage of the Equality Act by the U.S. House of Representatives is a powerful step towards a future where millions of LGBT Americans and their families no longer have to worry about being treated as less than equal in their places of work. However, discrimination is still a daily reality for many workers in the U.S.

Over one-fifth (22%) of millennial workers feel that being out about their sexual orientation to more senior staff will hurt their career advancement

While millennial workers are equally likely as older generations to be out in the workplace, less than one-third (33%) of millennial workers see senior management members who are out as LGBT community members

When it comes to creating an inclusive company culture for LGBT workers, the call is being sounded for employers to do more to keep up with the cultural shifts that are being driven by conversations around inclusivity, gender identity and diversity.

The TD survey found that LGBT positivity is an important consideration for millennials when choosing an employer with almost two-thirds of workers looking at an employer's reputation as an LGBT inclusive organization before pursuing employment opportunities.

Organizations that can foster a workplace culture where the LGBT community feels supported and safe will be more competitive and will be better able to attract and retain the best talent.

LGBT millennials are not confident when it comes to managing their finances and achieving financial stability. Only half of millennial LGBT workers self-evaluate their financial situation positively, 9% lower than that of LGBT Generation X and Baby Boomer workers (59%). Student loan debt has forced millennial workers to put off significant life goals, most importantly building emergency savings (63%), saving for retirement (51%) and buying a house (46%).

"The freedom to be your fullest self that equality enables in each of us can empower success in every facet of our lives," said Jonathan Lovitz, senior vice president, National LGBT Chamber of Commerce. Lovitz spoke at the 2019 annual dinner of the Keystone business alliance. "This survey shows us that it is important for organizations like TD Bank to take steps in understanding the obstacles that LGBT communities face so we can better become advocates for cultivating inclusive environments in our workplaces, and throughout society."

Other survey data highlights:

- *42% of millennial LGBT workers either use gender-neutral pronouns for themselves or have a partner or close friend that uses gender-neutral pronouns, compared to only 26% of LGBT Gen X and Baby Boomer workers.*
- *68% of millennial LGBT workers surveyed responded that a company having "a gender identity and expression non-discrimination policy" is most important in a workplace.*
- *18% of LGBT millennial workers indicated that they have access to an LGBT Employee Resource Group at their place of work.*
- *80% of millennial LGBT workers said "sexual orientation non-discrimination policy" is very important.*
- *60% of LGBT millennial workers have less than three months of emergency savings.*
- *71% of LGBT millennial workers with a bachelor's degree have current student loans and their median student loan debt owed is $40,000 per person.*

Hamilton Health Center FQHC

Looking for the ONE place that can take care of ALL your health care needs?

Hamilton Health Center MAIN CAMPUS
110 South 17th Street, Harrisburg, PA 17104 • (717) 232-9971

Downey School-Based Site
1313 Monroe Street, Harrisburg, PA 17103

Foose School-Based Site
1301 Sycamore Street, Harrisburg, PA 17104

Union Deposit Family Practice FORMERLY DR. BUKARI'S PRACTICE
891 South Arlington Avenue, Harrisburg, PA 17109 • (717) 232-0500

Hamilton Health Center of Perry County
46 Red Hill Court, Newport, PA 17074 • (717) 204-7865

Celebrating 50 Years in the Community!

Our Services Include:

- Internal Medicine
- Adult Medicine
- Pediatrics
- Women's Services
- Prenatal Care
- Obstetrics and Gynecology
- Family Planning
- Podiatry
- Behavioral/Mental Health Services
- X-Ray/Laboratory
- Dental Services for adults and children
- Eye Care Clinic
- STD and HIV/AIDS counseling treatment and testing
- WIC (Women, Infants and Children) nutritional services
- Case Management Services for prenatal, pregnant and addicted women & children (up to age 2)
- The Medicine Shoppe on-site pharmacy
- Insurance Enrollment
- Language Interpretation

Not all services available at every site.

www.hamiltonhealthcenter.com

Laughter was with me all along

(This is the first in a series of stories of my incredible and innovative journey beyond sexual assault. It will hopefully open up healthy dialogues about sexual assault in our LGBT communities)

The Blake Late Show

By Ron Blake

I was asleep in my loft in downtown Phoenix one night. Three men entered and I was held down and sexually assaulted. I almost lost my life before all the police arrived to help me.

Over time I isolated from society. I had explosive moments of anger often. I was finally diagnosed with PTSD and depression. The symptoms became much more severe.

On May 30, 2015 I tried to take my life. I survived. Things got better and then they got very bad again. On a suicidal night on November 2nd of that same year something unexpected happened. I laughed.

The Late Show with Stephen Colbert came on my TV and I laughed during the monologue.

It was a laugh just like any other laugh I had throughout my life. What saved my life is not that I laughed that night…it's that I recognized I laughed that night.

I paused the TV show for three minutes as I recognized my laughter. I sat quietly.

I had always been looking for the miracle in the distance to save me from PTSD. But to my surprise it was something that had been with me the whole time. Laughter. And this night I recognized it.

Something good was still coming from me. I decided I'd use that laughter and hold on to it.

I stared at the screen and I embraced what I describe as the emotional mindset of an eight year old kid at that moment. There was no thinking involved. I went with pure emotion.

My emotion told me I was getting on *The Late Show* as a guest. And I was going to share my story with Stephen Colbert and his audience. I had no idea how I would make that happen. It didn't matter.

I'd figure out the details the next day. I went to bed with hope that night. Hope.

That following morning I woke up and still had that hope. I went out after breakfast to buy paper at a Staples store near my home. For some reason, I ended up in front of a display of giant foam poster boards. An employee approached me and asked if I needed any help.

I asked her if there were more poster boards in the warehouse. But before she entered the warehouse she turned and asked me how many I wanted. I never said I wanted to buy any though. That was my lightbulb moment. I saw it clearly. I bought all of the boards they had at that store.

It was then I realized what I'd do to get on that show. And how I was taking back my life from PTSD from that sexual assault. I was going to meet total strangers each day and I would tell them my story.

And I'd ask them to sign support for all my efforts (to overcome PTSD/sexual assault and get on that show) on those boards with a variety of Sharpie markers I'd buy.

This would be my therapy to re-engage with people again after isolating so badly for years. I wanted this to be larger than life. I wasn't going to hide anymore from the trauma. I was going to talk.

Somehow I'd have to get the attention of *The Late Show* and show them the boards. I told myself I'd figure it out with the help of all the people I'd meet. I'd make it happen as I went.

On November 12, 2015 I set out to meet total strangers. I was excited. I was also fearful. It took three attempts to get out of my home that morning. I finally left.

I walked up to the first person on that day with a giant blank poster board and a lot of Sharpie markers. I was utterly unprepared for what was about to happen in my life over the next 1,288 days in a row I'd be on this full time cross country journey!

This article of hope and support is brought to you by that guy with a lot more to share. That guy with more stories than One Kansas City Place is Ron Blake. You can find him at BlakeLateShow.com.

Classic Drycleaners℠ and Laundromats

We offer **FREE** pickup and delivery in most neighborhoods throughout the Greater Harrisburg area!

Why choose us?

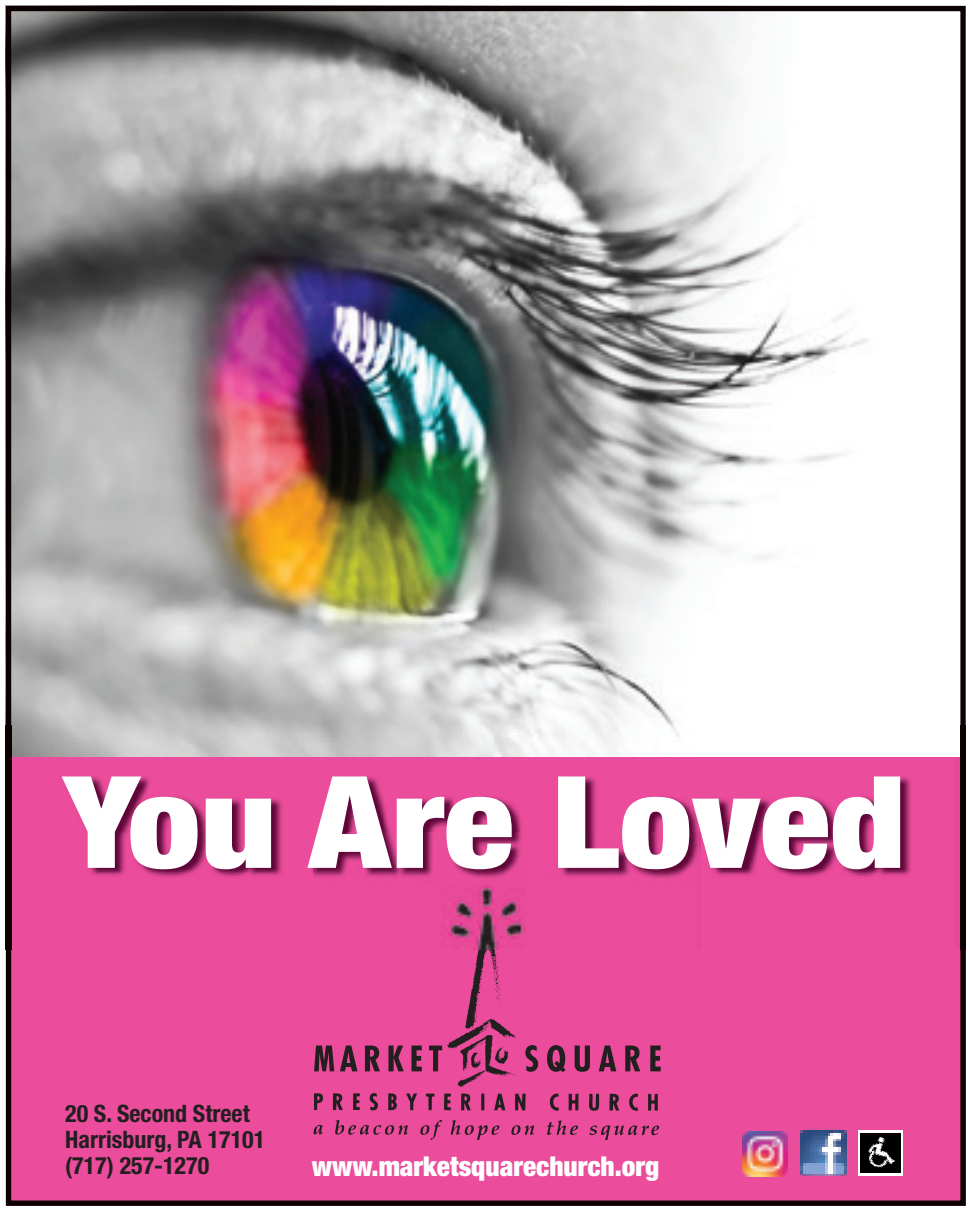
- ✓ Hassle-free
- ✓ Save TWO trips ... save gas *and* time!
- ✓ No need to be home
- ✓ No order too small
- ✓ Twice a week service
- ✓ Locally owned, operated and trusted for over 45 years

Sign up online or call 920-5500.

classicdrycleaner.com

REAL GAY NEWS.
WE GIVE IT TO YOU STRAIGHT.

TheCentralVoice.com



Building a better tomorrow for
CHILDREN & FAMILIES
Families United Network, Inc. is dedicated to strengthening families by providing children and youth with a safe, nurturing, community environment through a continuum of services, which focuses on reunification or permanency.
We provide safety, permanency and well-being for Pennsylvania children and families through Foster Care, Adoption, Child Care and Eldercare Services.
SERVICES: ADOPTION • ADULT CARE
CHILD CARE • FOSTER CARE
PREGNANCY SUPPORT
RESIDENTIAL CARE
Families United Network, Inc.
families4kids.org
(717) 766-5900
2 Market Plaza Way, Suite #4, Mechanicsburg, PA

Understanding tragedy: Why is this happening?

Making Sense of Life

By Dr. Terry Drew Karanen

Have you ever wondered why there are times when nothing goes right? The principles of metaphysics teach us that nothing happens to us that doesn't happen through us. While this concept may be true on some level, there's much more to equation. If we leave ourselves there our misfortunes can become a huge self-blame game. Here's what I mean.

Over 20 years ago I was mugged, robbed, and shot in the face. Being still somewhat new to metaphysical thought I immediately took complete responsibility for the experience. But, I couldn't figure out what I might have done to deserve that!

The truth is I didn't deserve it. No one deserves to go through that kind of pain, suffering, and loss. But why did it happen?

Think about this first: Do we really want to understand tragic events that happen? A former teacher of mine was asked how to understand the actions of Hitler. Her answer was that she didn't want to understand it. "To understand that," she explained, "I might discover I'm capable of doing what he did."

Offering another viewpoint, Rabbi Aron Moss asks,

Are you sure you want an explanation? Do you really want to know why the innocent suffer? I think not. You are far better off with the question than with an answer. … If this ultimate question were answered, then we would be able to make peace with the suffering of innocents. And that is unthinkable.

Did the universe (or God, if you prefer) punish me for my actions earlier in the evening? No.

I wasn't until years after the incident I talk about above that I got some insight on what happened. I finally admitted to myself why I was in the place and at the time I found myself when the attack occurred. If I would have followed my usual schedule, I would have been safely home and asleep by that time. Instead, I chose to be somewhere else earlier in the evening. It was somewhere I had no business being, doing something I knew was not in my best interests.

Did the universe (or God, if you prefer) punish me for my actions earlier in the evening? No. Did I set myself up to lose by breaking my own rules and not listening to my intuition? I believe I did. I do not judge whether or not that applies to you in some situation you might be thinking of right now; that is for you, and you alone, to determine.

I live my life taking full responsibility for the outcomes in my life. The universal law of cause and effect does not play favorites, nor does it have a secondary backup system if we unconsciously set ourselves up to lose. For me that means I don't allow myself to play the victim, or be victimized, at least on the conscious level.

Universal laws work exactly as physical laws; they only say, "Yes." For example, electricity and gravity don't care if you're a good person or a bad person. It works the same for anyone. Applying this to spiritual laws requires a "Yes" response as well. True, it may take a while for that "Yes" to appear in our life, but any time lag has more to do with us focusing on the problem instead of the solution. This impartial force brings about our focus, whether we judge that good or bad.

I'll admit there are times when I long for the days I believed in a benevolent supreme being who had a plan for me, a force that would ensure my success, only my success, and protect me from an evil in which I no longer believe. Those times of doubt are few and far between nowadays, lasting a brief few moments, and not a way of life.

Instead, I prefer to revel in the truth that I am the one responsible for my life and the outcomes. Like piloting a ship or jet aircraft, the process requires constant vigilance and many course corrections throughout our lives. When you and I follow the rules that go along with universal law, we are ultimately guaranteed success.

It that easy? Not usually in my experience, sometimes perhaps, but not always. The concepts are as simple and direct, but that simple direction requires us to look deep within ourselves for those answers. It's much easier to blame God, the devil, our parents, or the government. It's far more difficult to take personal responsibility for the outcome of our lives.

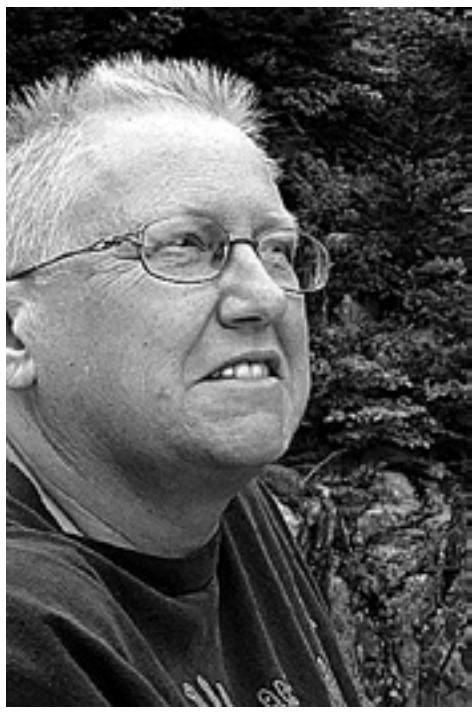
The effort, however, is worth it. When you and I decide our course, when we focus on what we want, when we are willing to correct course in the process or accept help from others, we are rewarded with an end result that says, "I did it." It wasn't luck. It was our own hard work, backed up by a power greater than us that is working for our benefit.

Terry is speaker, licensed social worker, and award-winning author - find his books on Amazon. Contact him at: terry@terrydrewkaranen.com

Analysis: Queer in the pulpit

By Tesla Taliaferro

For many within the LGBTQ+ community, religion has been used against us. We often run from it or denounce it, finding our own way through life without the institution's creed. Yet others within our community embrace it and even transform it. A few of us become leaders within the religious doctrine, spreading messages of love and acceptance from the pulpit.



Pastor Eva O'Diam

Pastor Eva O'Diam of the Dover United Church of Christ was born into a Presbyterian household, but early on her parents had a falling out with the faith and turned to the Church of the Brethren. She actively participated in youth group and eventually O'Diam attended the Church of the Brethren College in Indiana to study Sociology and Criminal Justice. Working as a probation officer, O'Diam knew that gay and lesbian people existed, but was too busy getting through school to think much about her own sexual orientation. As she got more involved with seminary, she came to the conclusion that the Bible did not condemn homosexuality but required all people be treated with love.

Ministering to the Church of the Brethren in Baltimore, O'Diam met many lesbians and began to question her own sexuality. While guest pastoring at the Metropolitan Community Church, she came to terms with her sexuality and entered into a long-term relationship with another woman. Within time, she resigned as pastor by choice rather than having the church ask her to depart due to her sexual orientation.

O'Diam took to alternate ministry, returning to prisons to support inmates struggling with their sexual identities and religious creeds. She led sensitivity trainings for volunteers while considering a return to ministry. O'Diam then ministered at the Harrisburg Metropolitan Community Church for 17 years. There she worked with the transgender community, dealing with controversies over bathroom usage and acceptance of the wider LGBTQ+ community.

Later, O'Diam worked for Alder Health Services as the Director of Client Services for six years before being called back to ministry. Recognizing she could not leave her own sexuality out of ministry, O'Diam transferred her credentials to the United Church of Christ in Penbrook before eventually taking over the ministry of Dover. There, she helped the church achieve its Open and Affirming status while living with her wife.

Her message to the LGBTQ+ community is that "God created you, celebrate that. You are not a mistake, you are a unique part of God's Creation, and one that none of us can do without."

Vicar Carla Christopher

Vicar Carla Christopher of York's Union Lutheran was brought up in a tradition that clashed with her sexual orientation. She grew up Episcopalian, though her family did not teach her any prejudice against LGBTQ+ people, they just never addressed the topic. While attending the Intervarsity Christian Bible School in New York, Christopher came out as lesbian. The ultra-conservative school emphasized purity culture and denounced the LGBTQ+ community. At age 18, Christopher was rejected by her faith community and sent to conversion therapy in Champagne-Urbana, Illinois.

She snuck out of a window, ran away, and called her mom from a pay phone. Christopher's family rescued her, driving in a snow storm from New York to Illinois to pick her up. For 10 years, Christopher left the church before returning to a few all-gay churches. She started performing poetry on working through her relationship with God at the Heidelberg United Church of Christ in York. The pastor encouraged her to pursue seminary. Hesitant to become a leader, she entered into a lay person licensure, meaning that she could preach locally. During her classes, her professors pushed her to go for full ordination.

She regularly met with the minister of Union Lutheran to engage in theological discussions. The minister introduced her to the Lutheran Bishop, who told her that it was time for her to stop being safe and work for change. That gave her the inspiration to enter the ministry and seek ordination. As she finishes up her seminary, she has received very little pushback based on her orientation. Yet, Christopher feels affected by the intersection of her race, gender, and sexual orientation by a lack of inclusion. She has not been invited to join the Black Ministers Association and while there is willingness to coordinate on Social Justice issues, she finds that conversations often stop when the option to share in worship is offered. While her church is not officially Welcoming and Affirming, Christopher and many other LGBTQ+ individuals call Union Lutheran home as they work toward that status.

What Christopher shares with her LGBTQ+ community is that "You are beloved, not tolerated, not accepted, but specifically, lovingly, joyfully wanted and celebrated for your unique gifts. Jesus was persecuted and misunderstood, all for being on the side of Love every single time. And in this broken world, as a queer person, you are closer to Jesus than almost anyone."

Reverend Terry Cummings

Reverend Terry Cummings, the new minister for the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of York, had no religious upbringing in Wolverhampton, England. As a young boy, Cummings moved in a secular world while being further turned off by religion due to the Troubles in Northern Ireland and the wars in the Middle East. Despite marrying two Catholics, Cummings did not care for the ethos of religious doctrine and found the liturgy rote and non-spiritual. Cummings maintained a negative view of religion well into middle age while maintaining an inherent belief in the existence of some Higher Power.

Cummings views regarding religion changed during her gender transition. After friends and family abandoned her and many clients to her New York law office fired her, she found solace in the disorganization yet welcoming nature of Unitarian Universalism. It was not long before Cummings involved herself with the Undoing Racism Committee and worked alongside others to feed the homeless, teach socially- and sexually-progressive Sunday School classes, and becoming a member of the Board of Trustees in her local congregation. Cummings found her chosen family with the Unitarian Universalists, and she realized that in ministry she would find something outside of Law to run to, rather than running from.

Her message to the LGBTQ+ community, and to all human beings is that "You are loved, lifted up, seen, supported, and welcome." She sees her role as "helping to create a safe place for everyone" where they can be "especially loved." As she enters the York Congregation this August, she looks forward to walking the walk in pushing for Social Justice within the congregation, fighting against racism, oppression, misogyny, and anti-multiculturalism. She finds that these issues impact the LGBTQ+ community, especially queer people of color. Her intent is to break down barries and discourage the labeling of people, which she feels violates their lives. "I won't treat an LGBTQ+ person any different than anyone else," following one of the Unitarian Universalist Principles that upholds the inherent dignity of every individual.

These ministers' paths are not always easy. The lives they have lived and the struggles they have endured to embrace religion and become ministers aligns with the same hardships they faced in accepting their identities and orientations. Telling their stories and sharing their messages may help others to stop running and to find acceptance where before they found only scorn.

REAL GAY NEWS. WE GIVE IT TO YOU STRAIGHT.
TheCentralVoice.com

SUPREME COURT from page 1

Court System in Georgia. He claimed he was fired because of his sexual orientation. The County claimed they fired him because of misuse of funds.

Bostock filed a complaint in United States District Court for the Northern District of Georgia alleging he was fired because of his sexual orientation. He subsequently amended the complaint to include an allegation of unlawful discrimination for failing to conform to a gender stereotype. Clayton County, his previous employer, moved to dismiss the complaint arguing that the complaint did not state a viable claim for relief because Title VII does not protect anyone from discrimination based on sexual orientation. The district court granted the motion to dismiss. The Eleventh Circuit affirmed the decision.

Zarda

Zarda, an openly gay skydiving instructor, was fired by Altitude Express after a female customer's boyfriend complained that Zarda had come out to her while preparing for a "tandem skydive" during which they would be strapped together.

He claims that he was fired because of his sexual orientation and because he does not fit in the sexual stereotype of a man. The district court dismissed both claims. The latter claim was dismissed because Zarda testified under oath that he is masculine and the former because the court found the law does not protect sexual orientation under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act.

During Zarda's litigation of the matter, the EEOC issued the opinion of Baldwin v. Foxx, which found "allegations of discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation necessarily states a claim of discrimination on the basis of sex." The district court did not find that the Baldwin case overruled existing Second Circuit precedent holding sexual orientation was not protected under Title VII. Zarda was permitted to take his state claims, which did protect sexual orientation, to trial. However, the jury returned a verdict for the defense.

Zarda appealed to the Second Circuit Court of Appeals. They ultimately reversed the Title VII holding below and found sexual orientation is a subset of sex discrimination. The rationale was based on sex stereotyping because a sexual stereotype of being a man or a woman necessarily includes being attracted to the opposite sex.

Gender identity case - Harris

R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Homes Inc., v. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, will be argued on the same day as Bostick and Zarda. Aimee Stephens was hired by Harris Funeral Homes as Anthony Stephens in 2007. However, in 2013 Stephens wrote the Harris Funeral Home's owner and said she identified as a woman and would be presenting as a woman at work.

A few weeks later the owner, Rost, offered Stephens a severance package, which Stephens declined. Harris Funeral Homes argued Stephens violated company dress code and they would have continued Stephen's employment but for Stephens' insistence on presenting as a woman. Harris Funeral Homes also argued that the company owner, Rost, was very religious and interprets the Bible as teaching that sex is immutable. Harris Funeral Homes further argued that maintaining Stephens as an employee would force Rost to violate his faith. All parties accepted the owner's religious sincerity.

Stephens filed a federal complaint under the Title VII sex discrimination provisions. The district court found the EEOC, who litigated the case for Stephens, raised a viable sex stereotyping claim under Title VII. Nevertheless, the district court ruled in favor of Harris Funeral Homes because of the Religious Freedom & Restoration Act (RFTA). The district court held, "Since Rost cannot in good conscience 'support the idea that sex is a changeable social construct,' forcing him to allow a male funeral director to present as a woman while representing Harris Homes 'would impose a substantial burden' on Rost's ability 'to conduct his business in accordance with his sincerely-held religious beliefs."

The Sixth Circuit reversed, finding that the word sex in Title VII necessarily includes gender identity. The Sixth Circuit also reversed the lower court's reliance on the RFTA, finding there was no substantial burden on Rost's religious exercise.

What should you expect at SCOTUS oral argument on October 8, 2019?

Bostock and Zarda

Based on the oral arguments it is likely the Bostock and Zarda will focus on whether it is discrimination to treat all gays and lesbian same, in other words they both can be fired, or whether it is discrimination to treat gays and lesbians in a disparate manner from straight people. The law has long looked to comparators to determine whether there is discrimination. Comparator arguments are challenging for sexual orientation cases.

There will likely be a lot of distinguishing between sex discrimination and sexual orientation by the opponents to LGBT rights. The advocates will likely refer to the Loving v Virginia case that found prohibiting marriage between an African American and white person discriminated, not only against the African American, but also created a disparate impact on the white person.

Harris Funeral Homes Inc.

The arguments in the briefs center on the distinction of inclusion of gender in the word sex. Title VII uses sex to define discrimination. There is no specific provision that includes gender or gender identity in the definition of sex, so the SCOTUS justices that do not want this will focus on the plain language of the statute. The others will ask Harris counsel how gender is not within the meaning of sex. I also expect some questions will arise about the Religious Freedom & Restoration Act and how that applies to employers with sincerely held religious beliefs. This was not well briefed by the participants but I expect Alito, Gorsuch, and Kavanaugh will at least inquire about this.

Conclusion

The oral argument will tell us if there is a swing vote. Most recently, Chief Justice Roberts has played that role. I am attending the oral argument and will report back on the questions and inferences that can be drawn from the SCOTUS questions.

Sharon R. López is an attorney with Triquetra Law

MEDICARE FOR ALL from page 5

mists from the University of Massachusetts Political Economy Research Institute (PERI) reports finding the Medicare for All Act of 2017, introduced to the United States Senate by Senator Bernie Sanders – that such a plan is not only economically viable, but could actually reduce health consumption expenditures by about 9.6% while also providing decent health care coverage for all Americans.

As proposed, Levinson says "Our bill aims to provide statewide comprehensive health care coverage." Similar measures have been introduced into every legislation session since 2007.

Bridge step?

Meanwhile, last July Democratic Leader Frank Dermody and his Republican counterpart Bryan Cutler last July watched Gov. Tom Wolf as he signed their legislation to establish a state-based health insurance exchange for Pennsylvania consumers.

"This new law's going to help more than 400,000 people who struggle to afford good health insurance for themselves and their families. The work to get this finished was a fantastic example of bipartisan action to do something good for people who can use it," Dermody said at the time.

Consumers who now purchase individual or family health insurance on the federal health exchange set up by the Affordable Care Act will be able to buy the same product from an exchange based in Pennsylvania. The state Insurance Department will be able to manage the marketplace more efficiently than the federal exchange, with the savings invested into an innovative reinsurance program for high-risk patients.

"This is going to result in lower health insurance premiums for thousands of state residents," Dermody said.

Levinson's reaction to the new law?

"It's more of an optimization than a solution," Levinson says.

"It saves the state money by hosting its own exchange, and reinsurance may help reduce some costs, but it does by no means guarantee a reduction in healthcare costs for all Pennsylvanians. We're still subsidizing a corrupt and broken health insurance system entirely driven by profit and denial of care," he says.

Levinson hopes for bipartisan cooperation "when it comes to solving our healthcare crisis with the real systemic change this country needs: single-payer healthcare and Medicare For All."

No paywalls.

No email sign-ins.

No fake news.

TheCentralVoice.com

REAL GAY NEWS. WE GIVE IT TO YOU STRAIGHT.

LGBT youth more politically engaged than heteros

Two professors from Maryland, Melissa Deckman of Washington College and Mileah Kromer of Goucher College, have conducted and published a survey demonstrating that activism and political engagement among young LGBT youth is high.

Last year's midterm elections were a "rainbow wave," with more openly lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people elected to public office than at any other time in American history.

According to the Victory Fund, a PAC that supports LGBT candidates, a record 627 openly LGBT candidates ran for public office in 2018, with 399 appearing on the general election ballot.However, LGBT Americans still remain underrepresented in political office, which suggests that political participation by older generations of LGBT Americans is less frequent than political activism by their straight counterparts. This dynamic, however, may be changing with future generations.

Recent surveys on young Americans in their late teens and early 20s reveal that the youngest generation of LGBT Americans is far more engaged in politics than their straight counterparts.

More politically engaged

In a June 2017 national survey of 2,023 young Americans age 15 to 24 conducted by the Public Religion Research Institute and MTV, one in 10 young Americans identified as LGBT.

This group of LGBT Americans reported higher levels of engagement on seven separate measures of political and civic participation.

Young LGBT Americans were roughly twice as likely as their straight counterparts to report attending a political rally or demonstration, donating money to a political campaign or contacting an elected official. They were also much more likely to engage in online political activism, whether that involved signing a petition, posting about an issue that mattered to them or following or liking a political campaign.

Combining these individual acts of political participation into a scale, the average young LGBT American reported participating in 3.7 political activities in the past year. Meanwhile, young straight Americans averaged 2.1 activities.

Leading the 'activist class'

This difference in behavior is also present among members of what we call the "activist class": the young people who have indicated a strong desire to run for office one day.

Deckman and Kromer conducted a survey of alumni of IGNITE, a nonprofit that trains young women to run for public office, to better understand how they benefited from the organization's programming. Deckman and Kromer also wanted to understand their views about political engagement more generally and to get a better sense of their political identities.

They focused on the 410 respondents who are 18 to 24 years old.

Seventy-two percent of IGNITE respondents identified themselves as heterosexual and female. The rest identified with another sexual orientation (homosexual, gay, lesbian, bisexual or something else) or gender identity (transgender, gender queer, gender nonconforming or something else). Given the current estimates of the number of openly LGBT Americans nationally, IGNITE is drawing a disproportionately high number of LGBT participants to its programming.

On all comparable measures, IGNITE participants who identify as LGBT reported higher levels of political engagement than straight IGNITE participants, although the differences are not nearly as stark as those in the PRRI survey.

This may be a reflection of the fact that the IGNITE alumni are a group that self-selected into a women's political training program and thus are more likely to be politically engaged compared with the average 18- to 24-year-old.

LGBT IGNITE participants averaged 4 political activities in the past year, compared with 3.2 activities done by heterosexual women.

The next generation

Both surveys show that this new generation of young LGBT Americans resoundingly rejects both conservatism and the GOP. This may be a factor in their heightened engagement.

Donald Trump's presidency could also be sparking interest in political action. For example, Trump's support of the right of business owners to refuse service to gay Americans because of religious differences has outraged the LGBT community. In the PRRI/MTV study, fewer than 6% of LGBT respondents had a favorable view of Trump.

In the IGNITE sample, 57% of LGBT women said that Trump's election encouraged them to participate in politics, compared with just 50% of the straight women.

Moreover, the PRRI/MTV survey found that only 8% of young LGBT Americans identify as conservative, compared with 25% of their straight counterparts. More than half of LGBT Americans in the PRRI/MTV poll are Democrats, with just 8% declaring they are Republican. The rest identify as Independent or with a third party.

The IGNITE survey paints an even bleaker picture for the political right when it comes to young, activist members of the LGBT community. No LGBT respondents to the IGNITE survey identified themselves as a conservative or Republican.

There is very little research on the political engagement of LGBT Americans historically, either because many such Americans may have been reluctant to disclose their status, or because most older surveys did not ask about sexual orientation. So, we can't say for sure if this younger cohort of LGBT Americans participates more in politics than previous generations.

But Deckman and Kromer's work suggests that political engagement among young Americans will largely be driven by progressive activists, including a disproportionate number of LGBT Americans.

LANCASTER COALITION from page 1

July 15 about 50 people gathered at Lancaster City Hall with the Lancaster Human Relations Commission to raise the Pride Flag, launching the third annual Pride Week, although Pride as a day event has been celebrated for 11 years in Lancaster. Pride Week was originally conceptualized by Foley. The joyful kick-off was followed by a city hall reception.

Foley said that day she was "honored to work and live in an accepting and affirming city with leadership like Mayor Danene Sorace and her Chief of Staff Jess King fighting for our rights and protections."

Pride Week's activities also included two significant events as the Coalition establishes its regional profile: a Town Hall Meeting with local and state government officials, including special guests State Representatives Mike Sturla of Lancaster County, Carol Hill-Evans of York County, and Patty Kim of Dauphin County and a Healthcare Mixer aimed at connecting friendly healthcare providers.

"We feel that as we celebrate the progress that has been made for LGBTQ+ people in Lancaster County and the surrounding areas, there are still major issues facing our community that need attention," Foley says.

Against this background and a ground swelling of activity, Foley explained to CV "We still have so much work to do, specifically in other areas of Lancaster County where there is no non-discrimination legislation. We will continue to advocate and educate so that issues like the Star Barn Controversy no longer occur." The controversy involved reports of a same-sex couple refused wedding reception services based the owner's religious beliefs.

Besides legislative issues, the Coalition also responds to immediate needs. For example, last year for Pride Week, the Coalition raised nearly $6,000 for Waves Ahead, an organization helping the LGBTQ+ community in Puerto Rico following Hurricane Maria.

Needs assessment

What's next now that the party's over?

"Highlighting and understanding the needs of LGBTQ+ youth," Foley stresses. Working intersectionally (connecting all the strengths and challenges of individuals and communities), the Coalition will, Foley notes, focus on creating access to affirming and affordable healthcare, and creating supportive and welcoming crisis shelters.

"One of our first major community outreach initiatives will be the development and implementation of a community needs assessment to more clearly identify the needs of the LGBTQ+ community throughout Lancaster County," Foley says.

As a counselor for the LGBTQ+ community, Foley says, "If I can connect my clients to community and support, 50% of my work is done, and there is currently nowhere that I can send my clients to —especially healthy, sober spaces.

Here's a concrete example of what working "intersectionally" means.

"There's nowhere for queer people of color to connect in Lancaster County. There's no visibility for the intersections of say, the deaf and queer communities here, and the list goes on," Foley points out.

As the Coalition's work begins, Foley has a clear sense of Lancaster history and the new group isn't asking previous creators of change and progress out in order to make room for others previously excluded. Every effort builds on those who came before.

"We are honored to continue the courageous work of the Pink Triangle Coalition and the Lancaster AIDS Project. We have the utmost gratitude for what they did for our community in the past and are fully aware that without them, without other organizations that have operated in this area, we would not be launching our Coalition," Foley says. This includes "an all-volunteer staff to keep Pride going," she underscores.

What about ongoing programs?

The Coalition is providing community programming from its physical location in The Candy Factory at 342 N. Queen St., Lancaster, PA.

Lancaster LGBTQ+ Coalition Founders

In old school 'organic' fashion, the list of founders is growing, morphing, evolving - Karen Foley, Xavier Garcia-Molina, Sherri Castillo, Cameron Childers, Tod Snovel, Suzette Harrell, Lee Cohen, Ismail Wade Smith-El, Dr. Adam Lake, Alexis Lake, Dr. Cindy Martinez, Dena Stanley, Sarah Roberts, and Olivia Walters.

Want to join the action? Look for Lancaster LGBTQ+ Coalition for Lancaster City's next Extraordinary Give on Nov. 22.

INFO - www.facebook.com/lancasterlgbtqcoalition

www.lgbtlancaster.org or email info@lgbtlancaster.org

Insta Twitter and Snapchat @lgbtqcoalition

classifieds

RUN YOUR AD ALL ACROSS PENNSYLVANIA FOR ONLY $475 | Call 717-703-3020

Announcements:
Free Two Night Vacation when you donate your old boat, car, truck, RV or jet ski. Help Boat Angel help others. 800-700-2628

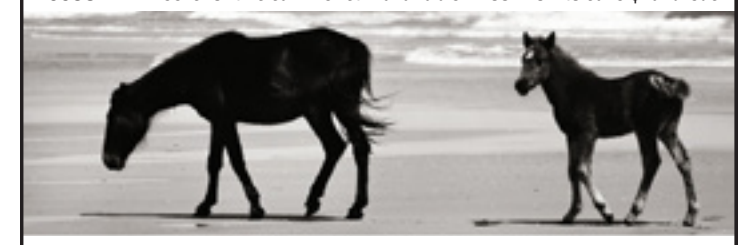
Education/Training:
AIRLINES ARE HIRING Get FAA approved hands on Aviation training. Financial aid for qualified students Career placement assistance. CALL Aviation Institute of Maintenance 877-207-0345

Miscellaneous:
Dental Insurance: Call Physicians Mutual Insurance company for details. NOT just a discount plan, REAL coverage for 350 procedures. 855-890-4914 or http://www.dental50plus.com/Penn Ad# 6118

Miscellaneous:
A PLACE FOR MOM: The nation's Largest senior living referral service. Contact our trusted, local experts today! Our service is FREE/no obligation. CALL 1-855-400-1032**Miscellaneous:**
Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 15% off and 0% financing for those who qualify. PLUS Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-855-569-3087

Notices or Announcements:
Pursuant to 128.85 of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture Title 7 regulations, GROWMARK FS, LLC. hereby gives notice of ground application of "Restricted Use Pesticides" for the protection of agricultural crops in municipalities in Pennsylvania during the next 45 days. Residents of contiguous property to our application sites should contact your local GROWMARK FS, LLC. facility for additional information. Concerned Citizens should contact: Michael Layton, MGR. Safety & Environment, mlayton@growmarkfs.com GROWMARK FS, LLC. 308 N.E. Front Street, Milford, DE 19963. Call 302-422-3002

OUTER BANKS, NC - VACATION RENTALS
DISCOUNTED weeks for this summer still available! Book now to save $hundreds!



Brindley Beach VACATIONS & SALES
Over 500 vacation homes from S. Nags Head to Corolla's 4x4!
877-642-3224
www.brindleybeach.com

THE CENTRAL VOICE PHOTO

UNDERSTANDING YOUR RIGHTS

Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission goes ground level

Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission staff member Keith Yundt (pictured above left) and volunteer Killian Brady (right) hosted a 2-hour walk-in session Aug. 3 at the LGBT Center of Central PA. With regard to LGBT-based complaints, since 2017 the state-level commission has been following 'guidance' issued by the Federal-level EEOC, or Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. The Federal commission enforces civil rights laws in the workplace. Why is the state-level commission following the Federal - 'guidance'? Because Pennsylvania's commission does not have the responsibility to offer protections, or review claims, based 'sexual orientation and/or gender identity'. In lieu of that circumstance, the state commission has been accepting complaints from the public under the regulations known as Federal Title VII. In the meantime, the state General Assembly has before it two pieces of legislation - House Bill 1404 by Rep. Dan Frankel and Senate Bill 614 by Sen. Farnese - that would empower the state commission to add LGBT language to the scope of its work. Pennsylvania has had similar legislation introduced in 2011, 2013, 2016, and 2018. And that's where all activity stopped.

INFO - www.phrc.pa.gov

DEMAND JUSTICE

Victims of sexual abuse by Catholic clergy or by authority figures at school have rights.

If you were abused by a priest or member of the clergy in Pennsylvania, you have rights.
WE CAN FIGHT TO PROTECT THOSE RIGHTS, AND HELP YOU GET THE JUSTICE YOU DESERVE.

CLERGY ABUSE ATTORNEY HOTLINE **800-444-9112**

FELDMAN & PINTO IS A LAW FIRM LOCATED AT 6706 SPRINGBANK STREET, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19119
MATTHEWS & ASSOCIATES IS A LAW FIRM LOCATED AT 6706 SPRINGBANK STREET, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19119, WITH PRINCIPAL OFFICES AT 2905 SACKETT STREET, HOUSTON, TX 77098
MATTHEWS & ASSOCIATES IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONTENT OF THIS AD. THE CHOICE OF A LAWYER IS AN IMPORTANT DECISION, AND IT SHOULD NEVER BE BASED SOLELY UPON AN ADVERTISEMENT.

Considering Cremation?
Save Thousands On Cremation Expenses

CREMATION SPECIALIST OF PENNSYLVANIA
Serving all of PA
Tyler J. Currie, Supervisor

Simple Cremation
$1395
or payments as low as $16.00 a month
All Inclusive, No Hidden Fees

Our facilities are private & secure. Your loved one never leaves our care.

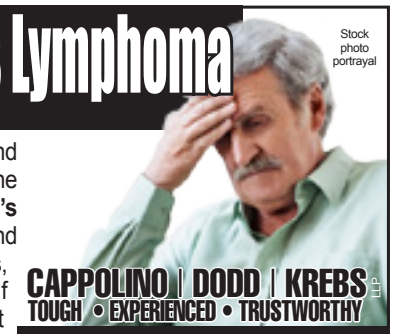
Preplan and prepay today and receive a
$200 DISCOUNT
For a limited time, so Act NOW!

For a FREE no obligation brochure and information, please call us toll free at 844-427-3672 or visit us on-line at www.cremationofpa.com

728 Main Street • Avoca, PA 18641

Donate A Boat or Car Today!
Boat Angel
"2-Night Free Vacation!"
800-700-BOAT (2628)
www.boatangel.com
sponsored by boat angel outreach centers STOP CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN

Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma

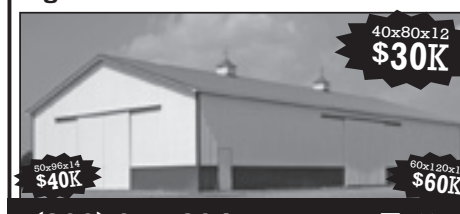


Roundup®, a common weed and grass killer, has been linked to the development of **Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma** in farm workers and employees in garden centers, nurseries, and landscapers. If you or someone you care about has been diagnosed with **Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma**, contact us today as time may be limited.

CAPPOLINO | DODD | KREBS LLP
TOUGH • EXPERIENCED • TRUSTWORTHY
1-800-460-0606
www.RespectForYou.com/NHL
312 W. HOUSTON, CAMERON, TX 76520
Richard A. Dodd is licensed to practice in Pennsylvania and is responsible for this ad.

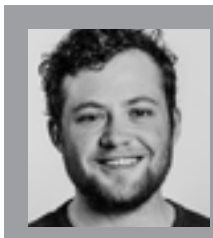
★★★ 30 YEARS OF SERVICE ★★★
CDL & NonCDL drivers to deliver new trucks from Jonestown and Macungie. Bonus Program, No Forced Dispatch, Be Your Own Boss! Must Have: DOT physical, NO DUI last 10 years, Willingness to Keep Logs. Clean MVR.
Quality Drive-Away
Apply Online at www.qualitydriveaway.com or call 574-642-2023

The Pole Building specialists
PA Lisc. #129608
Serving our Customers for 35 Years
FETTERVILLE SALES SINCE 1960
Agricultural • Commercial • Residential



All buildings include overhang 2 sides, 2 slider doors & 1 entry door
Erected on your level lot
FABRAL
(800) 275-8245 • www.FettervilleSales.com

A story of hope, love, & growth



By Atticus Ranck

When my wife and I got married last September, we opted not to have a traditional wedding party with female bridesmaids and male groomsmen. We try to buck traditional gender roles whenever we can. For the bridal party, Sebastian chose to have only one person in her party, the most important person in her life (besides me, of course!) - her mom. For me, I chose my younger sister Kendra as my Best Lady (the female equivalent of a Best Man). The rest of my party consisted of my friend Alicia, my brother Shane, and my older sister Nicole.

My sister Kendra wrote a Best Lady speech which I decided to share here with her permission. I edited it only slightly. The speech brought tears to my eyes during the reception and just now as I was reading it again. It's a speech of hope and love and growth, especially for family members of trans people. Kendra and I have come a long way as siblings and I have more love for her now than I ever have.

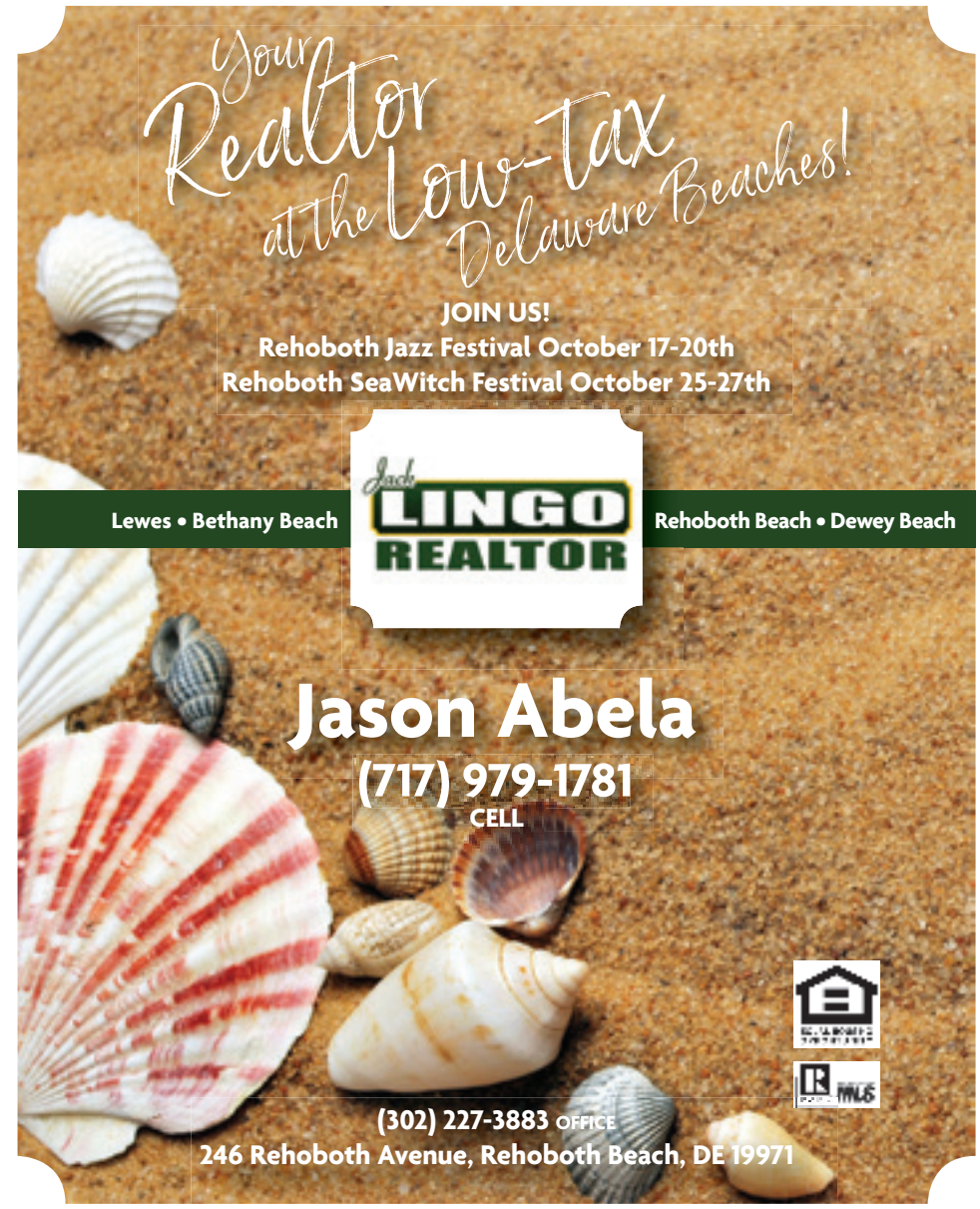
"Growing up with Atticus was like growing up with my best friend. We did everything together. I remember when Atticus started Kindergarten and I was sadly left behind I would wait by the door everyday until he walked in and immediately announce, "Let's play Sister, Sister". We would run up stairs, go to my parent's room and pretend that we were older "mature" sisters living in the same house. I loved every minute of it.

"As we got older, we developed new friendships and interests separate from each other, however, neither one of us left the other behind. We could always be seen together bonding over sports, books and movies - all of the good things in life. When Atticus started struggling with his identity I started to feel like I was losing my sister forever. How could we pretend to be older "mature" sisters without the one sister?

"I'll always remember the day that I confessed my own struggles to him. It was a breakthrough for us both. Atticus told me that he will always be the same person emotionally and even though I won't be able to call him my sister, I can say that I have gained another brother. Since then Atticus has done nothing but live up to those standards. He started to become a happier person. You could physically see that his internal struggles lifted and he became himself in a new and improved way. For me it honestly felt like I actually got my sister back just in an unexpected way.

"Now here we are, years later, celebrating this big moment in his life. His wedding day! I couldn't be happier for him. To have found the person he wants to spend his life with is a wonderful gift. Sebastian has provided comfort, patience and understanding in a way nobody else could. As life will undoubtedly continue to throw curve balls and struggles I have no doubt that they will be able to support, comfort and lean on one another through all of the storms. I wish them nothing but the best as they strive to meet mutual goals, as they build a life together and as their love continues to grow for one another. I can now say that I have not only gained a brother but a new sister as well."

Atticus Ranck is the Health Programs and Supportive Services Manager for Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center in Allentown.



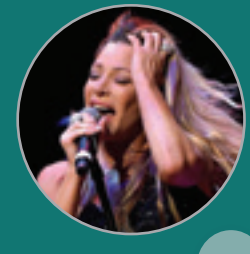
THRIVENT
FINANCIAL
Be Wise With Money™
THE BEST THINGS IN LIFE AREN'T THINGS
Great things can happen when we work together—like planning your financial future or finding ways to support your community.
I am committed to helping you be wise with money, so you can feel confident you have enough for yourself—and to share.
Let's make your needs a priority. Give me a call today.
Beth McKinley, Financial Associate
223 Penrose Plaza
Carlisle, PA 17013
717-585-0314
beth.mckinley@thrivent.com
connect.thrivent.com/beth-mckinley
Thrivent.com · 800-847-4836
28397 R6-18

marketplace

Trophy House
Celebrate Success
Plaques · Trophies · Glass Awards
Custom Engraving · Promotional Items & So Much More!
(717) 238-2838
TrophyHouseHarrisburg.com
308 Chestnut Street, Harrisburg

REHOBOTH GUEST HOUSE BED & BREAKFAST
40 MARYLAND AVENUE, REHOBOTH BEACH, DE 19971
TOLL-FREE: 800.564.0493 LOCAL: 302.227.4117
www.RehobothGuestHouse.com

THE PULLO CENTER



Mystery Science Theater 3000 Live!
September 14, 2019, at 7:30 p.m.

Xanadu
September 27, 2019, at 7:30 p.m.

Kindred Spirits
with Amy Bruni & Adam Berry
September 29, 2019, at 7:30 p.m.

Sean Larkin of *Live PD*
October 3, 2019, at 7:30 p.m.

An In-person Conversation with
Kathy Najimy
Plus A Screening of *Hocus Pocus*
October 12, 2019, at 7:30 p.m.

Cirque Mei
October 17, 2019, at 7:30 p.m.

Taylor Dayne
October 20, 2019, at 7:30 p.m.

The Ten Tenors
Home for the Holidays
December 8, 2019, at 7:30 p.m.

You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown
January 19, 2020, at 3:00 p.m.

Dinosaur World Live
February 1, 2020, at 4:00 p.m.

The Music of Sam Cooke
Starring Bradd Marquis
February 8, 2020, at 7:30 p.m.

That Golden Girls Show
A Puppet Parody
February 16, 2020, at 7:30 p.m.

The Greatest Love of All
A Tribute to Whitney Houston
March 7, 2020, at 7:30 p.m.

Andrew McCarthy Live with
A Screening of *Weekend at Bernie's*
April 2, 2020, at 7:30 p.m.

PennState York

ThePulloCenter.com
717-505-8900